

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor Dale Lane, Director Operations Command Center (901) 222-6700

1075 Mullins Station Road, Suite 113, Memphis, Tennessee 38134 www.staysafeshelby.us

Steve Shular, Public Affairs Officer Steve.shular@shelbycountytn.gov Cell (901) 359.5117

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Thunderstorm Causes Damage Across Shelby County

The strong afternoon thunderstorm that moved into the Shelby County area just before 4 p.m. severely damaged the roof of the National Guard Armory at 5650 Attu in Millington. The storm also caused trees to fall on houses and vehicles in Memphis, especially near the University of Memphis and the nearby Sherwood Forest neighborhood. No injuries were reported.

"Within minutes of when the storm hit, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness opened the Emergency Operations Center in east Memphis to coordinate damage reports from law enforcement, fire and emergency services agencies across Shelby County," said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Trees and utility lines were also knocked down in Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, Lakeland and several neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Almost 28,000 Memphis Light, Gas and Water customers were initially without utilities.

"Several intersections are still blocked by wires and tree limbs. Motorists need to use extreme caution while work crews clear debris," said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Should power outages be long-term, additional cooling centers will be opened. "We are coordinating relief efforts with the Memphis Office of Emergency Management. The high temperature tomorrow is again expected to be in the upper 90s with a heat index over 100 degrees," added Director Lane.

For additional information, call the Shelby County Office of Preparedness at (901) 222-6700.

(End of News Release)